

# THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME VIII.

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## SENSATION IN TAMPA

### LEASE OF TAMPA BAY HOTEL SCANDAL

Sunday Globe of That City Prints Interesting Account of Manner in Which Public Ownership Is Made to Serve Private Ends to the Injury of Taxpayers.

According to the reports from Tampa concerning the lease of the Tampa Bay Hotel, the action of the board of public works of that city seem to have been to run things with a high hand in their own interest.

In the exposition made by the Tampa Sunday Globe, a startling condition of municipal meretriciousness is shown. The Globe says:

"On the 20th inst. the Board of Public Works met and did some things that the citizens of this city will never consent to or be satisfied with.

"Two things: The leasing of the Tampa Bay Hotel to Messrs. Lauber, of St. Louis, and Stovall, of Tampa.

"And why? Because the terms of the lease are unjust to the taxpayers of Tampa and painfully ridiculous on their face.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars for five years, the taxpayers to pay for lighting the hotel.

"There are 3,700 lights in the hotel. Mr. Brown, the late manager of the hotel, states that his lighting bill ran from \$125 to \$175 per week, and that he watched the lights with a view to economy. Now, take Mr. Brown's minimum figures. They show \$500 per month for lights, or \$6,000 per year, or \$90,000 for the life of the lease—five years. In a deal like this there is certainly a lack of good judgment and common sense.

"But to cap the climax, the board at the same meeting sells the hotel lighting plant to the Tampa Electric Co. for the paltry sum of \$900.

"It would make the average man sick to think of such a deal.

"This plant cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and was recently overhauled by a competent electrical engineer, who says the plant is in good condition, and is worth today from \$9,000 to \$15,000.

"It would be not only a serious mistake, but a dangerous experiment, to detach this plant from the hotel property. To do so would throw the matter of lighting the hotel entirely at the mercy of the Tampa Electric Co. and the Tampa Gas Co.—one or both. Neither one of these lighting plants have any conscience or soul. Now, can the taxpayer see an inch from his nose? Peter O. Knight is attorney for the Tampa Electric Co., Tampa Gas Co., Florida Brewing Co., the Tribune Publishing Co., the Board of Public Works, and, we understand of W. R. Fuller (Co.), R. Mudge, a wholesale liquor dealer, B. M. Babin, a wholesale liquor dealer, W. R. Fuller is a wholesale grocer, S. J. Drayton is a retail grocer, and the Tampa Electric Co. furnishes lights and the Tribune publishes that which is 'good for the syndicate.'

## BUSY NOCATEE

Much Interest in the Law and Order League—Personal Notes.

Nocatee, Sept. 27.—Miss Claudia Carlton left Tuesday to go to DeLand, where she will enter school.

Miss Kate Green spent Sunday at her home in Pine Level.

Mrs. Donaldson, of Arcadia, was in Nocatee Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Carlton delightfully entertained their friends with a social at their home, two miles south of town, Monday evening.

Misses Donna and Nuell Collins returned to Nocatee Wednesday after a pleasant visit of several weeks with their relatives and friends at their home in Athens, Ala.

Mrs. P. H. Smith returned from Punta Gorda Wednesday accompanied by her daughter, Miss Murdock, who has had an attack of dengue fever.

Mr. A. J. Daugherty and family have moved out to their new home three miles west of Nocatee.

The friends of Mrs. R. Musselwhite received with regret the news of her death, which occurred in Arcadia on last Monday. The bereaved family have our sincere sympathy.

Small shipments of oranges are being made from here this week.

At the Law and Order League next Tuesday evening there will be a question before the house: "Resolved, That the progress of our country is due more to the efforts of its great men than its good women." Everybody interested in this kind of work is cordially invited to be present. The society promises to be a success and every one should avail themselves of the opportunity to take part.

## GARDNER GOSSIP

Our Energetic Reporters Send Interesting Letters of Live happenings.

Sept. 27.—Little Bailey Albritton, age 18 years, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. T. Harrison, at 5 o'clock a. m. Monday. He leaves many relatives, and a host of friends to mourn his death. His body was carried to Lily the home of the deceased, for burial. Sincere sympathy is extended to the bereaved parents and loved ones.

Holl P. Johnson, contracted to pack Allen Roberts' fruit, will commence work about the last of this week.

Hutto Durrance passed through Gardner, enroute to Tampa, where he expects to take a position in express office.

Miss Jennie Darlton spent Sunday with relatives in Zolfo, returning Sunday night.

Bryant McCorquodale failed to make his Sunday visit at this place.

An ice cream supper was given at the home of Mrs. Dan Coker, on Saturday night, all present report a good time.

Miss Piney Moore of Brownville, was mingling with friends in this place Sunday.

Bryant and Arch Hampton, Thomas and Harmon Coker and Wes Stevens have gone out to the lakes, on a two weeks camp hunt.

H. P. Johnson has recently beautified his palatial residence by fencing with wire.

T. C. Boggess, proprietor of the Gardner House, has enclosed his place with the Pittsburgh fencing.

Quite a number of Gardenerites anticipate a pleasant day at Bowling Green. They expect to show the people of DeSoto County how to sing, at the singing convention which is to be at that place.

Jot Coker was a pleasant caller at this place Sunday.

We are having extremely hot weather now, but the soil was cooled off by a pleasant little shower Tuesday.

Detective L. B. Bryant of the A. C. L. R. R., was doing business here last week.

Miss Grace Stephens was shaking hands through the car windows Sunday afternoon, with her old schoolmates the Misses Boggess.

D. L. Coker, our post master, went to Tampa last week and brought back with him a beautiful wife, Mr. Coker says that he has got the most beautiful wife in Florida.

Dr. McSwain came up on 7:30 o'clock train Sunday a. m. and assisted Dr. Moore in an operation.

Quite a number are on the sick list this week. Dr. Moore has had several calls recently.

Mr. Durrance was stopping at the Gardner House Wednesday.

H. P. Johnson has recently sold out his stables to Mr. Hampton.

Gardner, Sept. 26.—Weather is gradually turning cooler now.

Ed. Hendry was visiting his sister, Mrs. T. Fielder, a few days last week.

Mrs. A. M. Coker, of Brownville, was visiting relatives here last Monday.

Our community was shocked very much to hear of the sad death of Mrs. B. L. Cline last Thursday. Her body was brought up from Arcadia and interred in the cemetery last Friday.

The young folks was entertained by an apron party given by Misses Bertie and Fannie Coker at the home of their parents on last Saturday evening, every one present reported an enjoyable time.

The Literary Society meets next Friday night, every body is cordially invited to attend.

Mrs. Addie McCorquodale made her sister of Arcadia a pleasant call last Tuesday.

There will be given at the school house here, a festival for the benefit of the church on next Friday night week or October 6; every body is invited to attend.

## MONTHLY STRAWBERRIES

Law of Nature Conquered and New Plant Given to World.

Orange, N. J., Sept. 26.—Fresh strawberries each month in the year from the same plant is the latest wonder produced by Henry Joralemon, a Hilton strawberry grower. Mr. Joralemon, who recently returned from California, where he compared notes with Burbank, the plant wizard, says his new monthly bearing plant is practical, and may be successfully cultivated by any one.

The ultimate result will be to place fresh strawberries on the table at Christmas as well as in June, all from the same plant. It was because he wanted a certain hardy strawberry plant to cross with his present plant that he spent the summer in the West and journeyed 2,000 miles north of Seattle. It was in this chilly climate that Mr. Joralemon found the plant he sought.

## CHARGED WITH KILLING

### HER INFANT IS WOMAN OF FT. MYERS

Hortense Bodiford Arrested Here and Taken to Lee County Jail—Crime Occurred about Two Weeks Ago—Wife of Joe Britt's Slayer.

Charged with murder of her infant, Hortense Bodiford, of Ft. Myers, was arrested here Wednesday.

Sheriff Tippins, of Lee county came for her and the young woman was taken to Fort Myers on the noon train Wednesday and placed in jail there to await trial.

Although calling herself Bodiford her right name is Brandon, she being the wife of the man who killed Joe Britt in this city about a year ago.

The child it said to have been born about two weeks ago.

Neighbors living near the woman heard her cries of distress one night, and two days later she left Fort Myers, coming to Nocatee.

From there she came to Arcadia, and found employment at T. K. Dishong's, where she remained until her arrest.

A man, cleaning a closet, found the body of the baby, where it had been thrown. The sleeves of a shirtwaist had been tied around its neck, evidently for the purpose of choking it to death.

Investigation pointed to the Bodiford woman and her mother as the guilty persons, and the old woman was arrested at Punta Gorda as accessory to the crime.

When the Bodiford woman was arrested here and told that her mother was already in jail, she declared her mother had "nothing to do with it."

Questioned if it were her child, she told Sheriff Freeman he would find out all about it later, but refused to say more.

The woman is about 21 years old and off fairly good appearance. She seemed quite self-possessed and took her arrest coolly.

## CATTLE SHIPMENTS

Total Paid to W. H. Hooker Was \$103,334—Over 8,000 Head Shipped.

Punta Gorda Herald: Capt. James McKay, of Tampa, kindly furnishes the Herald with a complete exhibit of the cattle shipped by him during the season just-closed from Punta Gorda to Cuba. All these cattle were furnished by W. H. Hooker, of Arcadia, who received for them the total amount of \$103,334. The total number shipped was 8,469.

Of these, 5,260 were beef cattle, 1,816 dry cows, 327 cows, 327 calves, 356 two-year olds and 583 one-years.

The season began April 22 and ended Sept. 17. There were seventeen cargoes averaging each 498 head. Of these, the steamship Roanoke carried five cargoes, the Gussie twelve.

Eleven cargoes were shipped to Cardenas, six to Havana.

The cattle stood the transportation pretty well, but the profits realized were not very flattering. Large shipments into Cuba of cattle from Texas and Central American ports have caused a decline in prices and consequently the Florida shipper is left but a small margin of profit.

The amount paid Mr. Hooker was distributed amongst several other large cattle owners, from whom he bought stock to supply Capt. McKay.

This \$100,000 is possibly half the amount which cattle have brought into DeSoto county this year. Add to this \$900,000 worth of oranges and a half million worth of phosphate, vegetables and naval stores, and it may readily be understood why DeSoto is the most prosperous county in Florida.

## Orange Shipments.

All the packing houses, with the exception of that of Heard & Reynolds, are now open and handling oranges for market, and the latter house will be open in a few days.

The rainy weather has hampered the shipments, otherwise many more cars would have been forwarded this week. Dry days however, will soon bring the work to full swing.

## Fever at Pensacola.

During the first portion of the week many new cases of yellow fever were reported at Pensacola, and the situation appeared quite discouraging to the health authorities, but the list of new cases is now lessened, and conditions seem more favorable.

The death rate is high, being 25 per cent of those stricken, and Dr. Porter complains that he is hampered in his efforts by lack of co-operation of the citizens.

It looks now as if the infection would prevail until frost.

## BROWNVILLE.

Interesting Budget of Personal and Local Events of Town.

Brownville, Sept. 26.—There has been quite a change in the weather for the past week.

School is progressing nicely under the able management of Prof. John Carlton and his sister, Miss Maggie.

Mrs. W. W. Fulford spent Sunday with relatives at Ft. Ogden.

Miss Hattie Cash spent Saturday night and Sunday with friends in Brownville.

Mr. Jake Wey of Arcadia, made a business call in our town Monday.

The residence of A. S. Waldron, when finished, will add greatly to the looks of our little town.

Judge Lawton of Arcadia, placed an organ in the church at this place last week which will be quite an addition to the looks of our new church.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baldwin, on last Saturday evening, a social was given in honor of Miss Hattie Mae Cash, which was attended by a large crowd; all report a pleasant evening. Miss Cash returned to her home in Charlotte Harbor Sunday. She expects to leave soon for Pleasant Grove, where she has been assigned as teacher at that school.

Quite a number of our young folks are expecting to attend the singing convention at Bowling Green, next Sunday.

## CHARLOTTE HARBOR

Evangelist Meeting Being Held—Personal Notes of Interest.

Charlotte Harbor Sept. 27.—Miss Orr resumed her school work Thursday after a severe case of Dague fever.

Mrs. Gordon Keller, from Tampa, arrived here Wednesday on a visit to her parents.

Rev. Gatewood from Punta Gorda attended church here Sunday.

Miss Grace Stephens visited home folks Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Bertha Danielson was shopping in Punta Gorda Monday.

We have two evangelist with us this week we hope they will do much good. Quite a large congregation was out last night.

Sam Roberts made a flying trip to Ft. Myers Monday, as a witness in the Johnson and Jones case.

## BOWLING GREEN

Prospering as Usual—Building Houses—Large School Enrollment.

Bowling Green, Fla., Sept. 27.—Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Giles are visiting relatives in South Carolina.

The cattlemen are gathering beef cattle for shipment this week.

The town is forging ahead. Three new houses are in course of construction and material has been bought for the erection of two more at once.

A few days ago D. Vestal, while in the woods, noticed his bird dog "make a point," and upon investigation found a rattlesnake. Mr. Vestal now has the snake skin stretched and hanging in the hotel office. The reptile measured 6 feet.

T. R. Starke is erecting a handsome residence on Ross avenue. M. R. Gill is having the Ogg house remodeled.

Prof. Price reports an enrollment of 110 scholars at school.

Mrs. W. R. Major has returned from Winter Haven, having spent a week very pleasantly there with relatives.

The packing houses are being prepared for shipping season. This is a large shipping point.

T. J. Minor has returned to Fort Meade, having about recovered from his recent illness.

Gus Vogler is critically ill at this writing.

## HELP THE ORPHANAGE.

People of Florida Asked to Aid a Worthy Charity.

The first Saturday in October is Orphanage Day. By this we mean that we ask the people of Florida, and especially the Baptists of the State, that they will put in that day in work and give the earnings to the Orphanage at Arcadia. This could be made a day of great help and blessing to us. Is it true that some will not think enough of the importance of the matter to send us the earnings of one day? If observed by everyone desiring to do good, that day would bring us hundreds of dollars. Two things we are sure of, one is: we need it; the other is, you can't invest in anything better. Even many Sunday school children might earn something on that day especially to send to us to help in this work, and make the day a joyful one to themselves because they were helping to care for the orphan.

Please remember the first Saturday in October, and make it a day of help and blessing to the Florida Baptist Orphanage. B. M. BEAN, Arcadia, Fla., Sept. 28. Supt.

Read the News.

## PUTNAM CO. IS STILL WET

### DECENT ELEMENT DEFEATED BY 65 VOTES

"Manufacture of Drunken Niggers" Will Continue—Debasing Situation Where Negroes Sway White Sentiment—Volusia Goes Dry By a Large Majority.

The wet or dry election in Putnam County was decided in favor of continuance of saloons by a majority of 65, and thus, in the language of the Palatka News, the business of "manufacturing drunken niggers" is unrestrained.

The negroes of Palatka were active factors in the campaign for the wet side, and indeed, it was stated that the leading arguments for that cause appearing in print were made by a negro.

At any time it is regarded as a misfortune that negroes should dominate, but how appalling that white people should permit themselves to be so swayed in adjusting a moral question, and allow the blacks to debase a community.

In Volusia County the liquor question was before the people Wednesday and the election resulted in prohibition, which the county has been for several years.

## VINELESS POTATOES

Montana Man Shows Latest Thing in Vegetables.

Great Falls, Mont., Sept. 28.—At the county fair, which opened here Monday there is one exhibition that the inventor calls vineless potatoes.

Some three months ago, the discoverer of a new process for producing potatoes, announced that he could grow potatoes in from two to three months in a special preparation, in layers on top of each other and without vines.

His experiments have been conducted in a box eight feet square. In the bottom of this box a layer of his preparation is placed to the depth of three inches and a number of potatoes planted therein. Another layer of three inches is scattered over these potatoes and more potatoes planted in the usual way and so on until the frame is full. He claims that the box may be built to almost any height with layer after layer of potatoes without effecting the producing quality of his composition, and that he can have new potatoes for market in any climate at any time of the year.

## FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

Pleasant Literary Evening with an Instructive Program.

The Fortnightly Literary Club met at the residence of Mrs. A. B. Williford last Friday night, when the following program was given:

Instrumental Solo—"Mountain Stream"—Miss Percy Fulk.

Current Events—Rev. W. D. Turnley.

Vocal Solo—"September Day"—Mrs. T. B. King.

Paper—History of Panama Canal—J. W. Burton.

Vocal Solo—"Forgotten"—Mrs. D. W. McSwain.

Paper—Geography of Panama—C. C. Chollar.

Vocal Solo—Mrs. J. N. Hollingsworth.

Vocal Solo—"O, Dry Those Tears"—Mr. Sams.

The new meeting of the club will be held with the gentlemen members residing at the Southern.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

Of Lurene Carlton, at Which Many Little Tots Help Her Celebrate.

A happy party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Carlton Wednesday afternoon in honor of the sixth anniversary of their daughter, Lurene.

Ice cream and other refreshments were served, and the many little visitors enjoyed a delightful afternoon.

Those present were: Bertie Gore, Sophia Smith, Lillian Wood, Maude Simmons, Nellie Ford, Catherine Fitzgerald, Neoma Morqua, Frances Britt, Alger Smart, George Smith, Richard Myers, Lillian Simmons, Ruth Youmans, Winnie Thomas, Archibald Smith, Ruth Holmer, Charlotte Seward, Windy Wey.

## Work for the Sheriff.

Kissimmee Gazette: Hereafter no attendants from the State Insane Asylum at Chattahoochee will be sent to points in the State to secure patients for that institution. Superintendent Whitner said that he had been instructed by the board of commissioners of the State institutions not to send for patients as it is the duty of the sheriff of each county to deliver the patient to the asylum at the expense of the county from which they are committed. Heretofore it has been the custom of the asylum to send attendants to various points in the State for patients.

## CASE OF MRS. MATHES

Who Was Enjoined from Teaching School at Turkey Creek.

It having been announced that an injunction had been sued out against Mrs. L. B. Mathes, one of the plaintiffs in the celebrated Stetson libel case, to prevent her teaching in the public school at Turkey Creek, in Hillsborough county, and knowing that Major Alex. St. Clair-Abrams was Mrs. Mathes' attorney in the libel suit, the Jacksonville Metropolis requested some information from him in regard to the trouble.

The major stated that while he was not Mrs. Mathes' attorney in this last case, he had been kept fully advised of the whole proceedings. He declared Mrs. Mathes had been subjected to a most systematic hounding down and persecution now for several months. Detectives, he said, had been sent to where she was earning a living by teaching in North Carolina; her letters had been tampered with and efforts had been made to stop her teaching school in North Carolina. Owing to the illness of her husband the burden of supporting him, her children and herself, was placed upon her. Their home being near Turkey Creek, in Hillsborough county, she sought to teach in the public school there, and was indorsed for the position by an overwhelming majority of the patrons of the school, and receiving a teachers' certificate was appointed to teach the school. As soon as this was known, strenuous efforts were made to prevent the lady earning a living. The detectives renewed their work and certain of the patrons of the school were induced to start an agitation against her. Finally the county superintendent of schools suspended her certificate, but the State board promptly reversed his action.

"The effort," said Major Abrams, "is now being made by injunction to prevent Mrs. Mathes earning a living. It is not pretended that since the Stetson affair arose there has been the slightest impropriety in the life of the persecuted lady. She is admittedly one of the best and most efficient teachers in the State. Her husband is absolutely invalid and is unable to earn a dollar for the support of his family. Mrs. Mathes' only occupation is that of a teacher; by her labor she has to support herself, her husband and their two children. Nothing more unmanly has occurred in this State than the persecution and hounding down of Mrs. Mathes. Affidavits have been made by persons not cognizant of a single fact, but based solely on rumor of events, said to have transpired several years ago."

## School Opens Monday.

The public school will open Monday, and it is desirable that a full attendance be present the first day that the opening be under as favorable auspices as possible.

## City Election.

The city election occurred Monday, about 70 votes being cast. Mayor Platt took up the reins of the city government on Tuesday.

## Takes Hogs To Tampa.

Tampa Times:—Mr. Albritton, of Lily, arrived on the outskirts of the city Wednesday morning with a fine drove of hogs from DeSoto County. The hogs to the number of 52 are all of improved stock and he is rapidly disposing of them in the local market.

## Swiss English.

The Swiss have not a perfect grasp of English grammar. Recently the following advertisement appeared in an "English" guidebook published at Berne: "The hotel is a very favorite resort of people fond of solitude and rest. Those who are in search of loneliness are in veritable fact constantly flocking to the hotel from the fore quarters of this globe." "Strange gentlemen will to please not to dress for dinner, etc., as this costume flutters the souls of the maid folk and no work is resorted. Humbly asked." Such is the announcement posted in the bedrooms of an inn in the Jura mountains.

## Rushing the Business.

The following story is told of a one time Pennsylvania legislature:

The session was about to expire. In accordance with the usual custom, the chair was occupied by a rapid worker, who was deaf to objections and blind to objections. His name was Alexander McClure. Under his able management the bills were going through at a lightning express rate when one measure was reached that was particularly obnoxious to a noisy minority. Utterly oblivious to the demonstration, Mr. McClure declared that the bill had passed. Over in one corner of the legislative chamber one member was especially vociferous. He would not be quieted, and Mr. McClure was finally compelled to notice him for the sake of peace.

"For what purpose does the gentleman rise?" asked the chair.

"I want to offer an amendment to the bill," was the reply.

"Too late," said Mr. McClure, without a smile. "Offer it to the next bill. The clerk will read."